

# 2005

## Montana Hunting Regulations

# Bison



These regulations and quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (FWPC) in section 87-1-301, MCA and are valid March 1, 2005 through February 28, 2006. These regulations were adopted by the FWPC on September 8, 2005. The FWPC reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

### Licensing

- Application process:
  - Applicants must possess a valid 2005 conservation license to apply.
  - Applications must be accompanied by a \$3 nonrefundable drawing fee.
  - Successful applicants will be notified by telephone.
  - Hunters may apply for a bison license:
    - online at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT on Friday, September 30, 2005, or
    - over-the-counter at any FWP regional office, FWP area office, and/or the Helena Headquarters by 5 p.m. MDT on Friday, September 30, 2005, or
    - by mail. Applications are available at all FWP license providers or may be downloaded from the FWP website at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov). Applications must be received at FWP Helena Headquarters by 5 p.m. MDT on Friday, September 30, 2005.
- Bison licenses are allotted through a random drawing, except for Tribal Licenses which will be designated by each Tribe.
- Successful applicants will be required to possess or purchase a bison license and hunter access enhancement fee before hunting.

<u>License cost:</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
Conservation	\$6.25	\$9.25
Bison License	\$75.00	\$750.00
Hunter Access Enhancement Fee	\$2.00	\$10.00

- Licenses will be available from any FWP License Provider. Tribal licenses will be issued free-of-charge.

### Bison License Quota

- A total of 50 either sex licenses will be issued, with 25 either-sex licenses available for each of two time periods.
  - 10 either sex licenses will be issued to successful applicants from the January, 2005 drawing.

- 16 either sex licenses, 8 per time period, will be issued to tribal members in accordance with Senate Bill 91.
- 24 licenses will be issued to the general public for the 2005 bison hunting season.
- Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the license quota.

### General Regulations AND Methods and Means of Hunting

- Hunting is restricted to individuals with licenses issued via a drawing process similar to that employed for other special licenses issued by FWP or as designated by Tribal authority. All licenses are non-transferable.
- General regulations as listed in the 2005 Big Game Deer/Elk/Antelope hunting regulations shall govern the 2005 bison season.
- The season will begin November 15, 2005 and end February 15, 2006.
  - The season will be divided into two time periods:
    - 385-01: 25 licenses Nov 15, 2005 – Jan 15, 2006 either-sex Bison
    - 385-02: 25 licenses Jan 16, 2006 – Feb 15, 2006 either-sex Bison
- Out of the quota of 50 issued, there will be 16 Tribal licenses issued, with 8 licenses per time period and another 10 that were issued to the general public in the January 2005, drawing. This leaves a total of 24 new licenses that will be issued to the general public for the 2005 bison hunting season.
- The only means of taking allowed are center-fire rifles. Muzzleloading black powder rifles and/or archery equipment are not permitted.
- Rifles are restricted to those capable of propelling bullets with sufficient force to produce a quick kill, a center-fire, 150 grain or larger bullet.
- Hunting is allowed on public land and on private land with landowner permission.
- Bison licenses are valid in Eagle Creek/Bear Creek drainage of the Gardiner Basin in the North Boundary area; Portions of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness north of YNP (including the upper portions of the Hellroaring and Slough Creek drainages); and public land with no cattle allotments in the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, and the upper Gallatin River drainage south of the mouth of Taylor Fork, and the West Yellowstone Area, which is identified as Zone 2. See map and legals in these regulations.
- To protect public safety and minimize traffic obstructions, no bison hunting is allowed within 100 yards of major highways. This initially includes segments of Highways 20, 191, and 287 on the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) and Highway 89 near the northern boundary of YNP.
- Hunting on national forest lands must follow restrictions in USFS order 36 CFR 261.10 (d) (firearm discharges are prohibited within 150 yards of residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area or across a forest service road or body of water).
- License quotas, hunting district boundaries, and season structure can be modified by FWP Commission authority.
- Hunting hours authorized for the taking of big game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See official 2005 Sunrise-Sunset Tables in these regulations.

- As adopted under SB395 (as codified in 87-2-730 (MCA)) FWP shall not provide actual physical location of wild bison other than the prescribed hunting district where the animal may be taken.
- Hunting is subject to 24-hour closure in the event it becomes necessary to allow for hazing under the Interagency Bison Management Plan.
- All permitted hunters will be required to participate in a hunt orientation with FWP staff. Hunters must contact an FWP Regional office (see listings in these Regulations) to schedule the orientation.
- Hunting shall be only by foot or horseback.

## Information and Recommendations

- Bison can achieve a live weight of up to 2,000 pounds, and can be very difficult for the average person to field dress alone. Participants should bring several people with them, or hire an outfitter to assist with the field dressing and handling of their bison. If participants plan to field dress and load their own animal, axes, knives, saws, and block and tackle may be necessary.
- Due to the bison's immense size and thick hide, palatable meat may spoil quickly without immediate and proper care. It is recommended that bison be skinned and quartered within five hours of the kill. The hide should not be left on the bison overnight, even if it is hanging.
- Bison may be in areas inaccessible by vehicle so horses, snow machines, or all-terrain vehicles may be necessary to get the animal moved to a road. In some areas near Gardiner, the use of off-road motorized vehicles is restricted. For further information, contact the appropriate land management agency.

## Brucellosis

- Bison in Yellowstone National Park carry bacteria that cause a disease known as brucellosis or bang's disease. The disease-causing bacteria can be transmitted from bison to cattle. If domestic cattle are infected, there are negative effects to individual cattle producers in the form of a loss of production, loss of markets, and costly preventative measures, including vaccination. Brucellosis in Yellowstone National Park bison is one of the primary reasons that attempts are being made to control bison in Montana.
- Brucellosis in bison is caused by a bacterium that can also infect humans. In humans, brucellosis is called undulant fever. Symptoms include intermittent fever, chills, night sweats, body aches, poor appetite and weakness. If undulant fever is treated early, it is fairly easy to cure. However, if the disease reaches a chronic stage, treatment is difficult.
- In bison, the bacteria is concentrated in the lymph nodes, reproductive organs and the udder. Cooking destroys bacteria that may be present in the meat. Thus, when thoroughly cooked, the meat is safe to eat. You can protect yourself by following these handling tips:
  - Consider every bison to be potentially infected. The results of blood tests show that about 50 percent of the bison are exposed to brucellosis.
  - Always wear protective gloves when dressing carcasses or handling viscera.
  - Avoid contact with milk or material from the reproductive tract.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth until you have scrubbed after handling the animal.
  - Individuals with open sores or cuts on their hands should be especially careful.
  - Discard organ meats.
  - Thoroughly cook all meat consumed.

## Bison Hunt Legal Descriptions

The following areas are open to bison hunting for the 2005 season.

### **Eagle Creek/Bear Creek Drainage of the Gardiner Basin in the North Boundary Area –**

Beginning at the boundary intersection of Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness just east of Gardiner, then northerly and westerly along said Wilderness boundary to hydrologic divide between Little Trail Creek and Maiden Basin, then south down said divide to Little Trail Creek, then west down said Creek to a posted line (lying above U.S. Hwy 89), then southeasterly along said line to the Travertine-Trail Creek road, then easterly along said road to its intersection with the Gardiner-Jardine road, then northeasterly along the Gardiner-Jardine road to Eagle Creek, then southerly down Eagle Creek to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then east along said boundary to its intersection with the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness boundary, the point of beginning.

### **Portions of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness North of Yellowstone National Park (including the upper portions of the Hellroaring and Slough Creek drainages) –**

The entire Hellroaring, Buffalo Fork, and Slough creeks drainages north of Yellowstone National Park.

### **Public land with no cattle allotments in the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, and the upper Gallatin River drainage south of the mouth of Taylor Fork –**

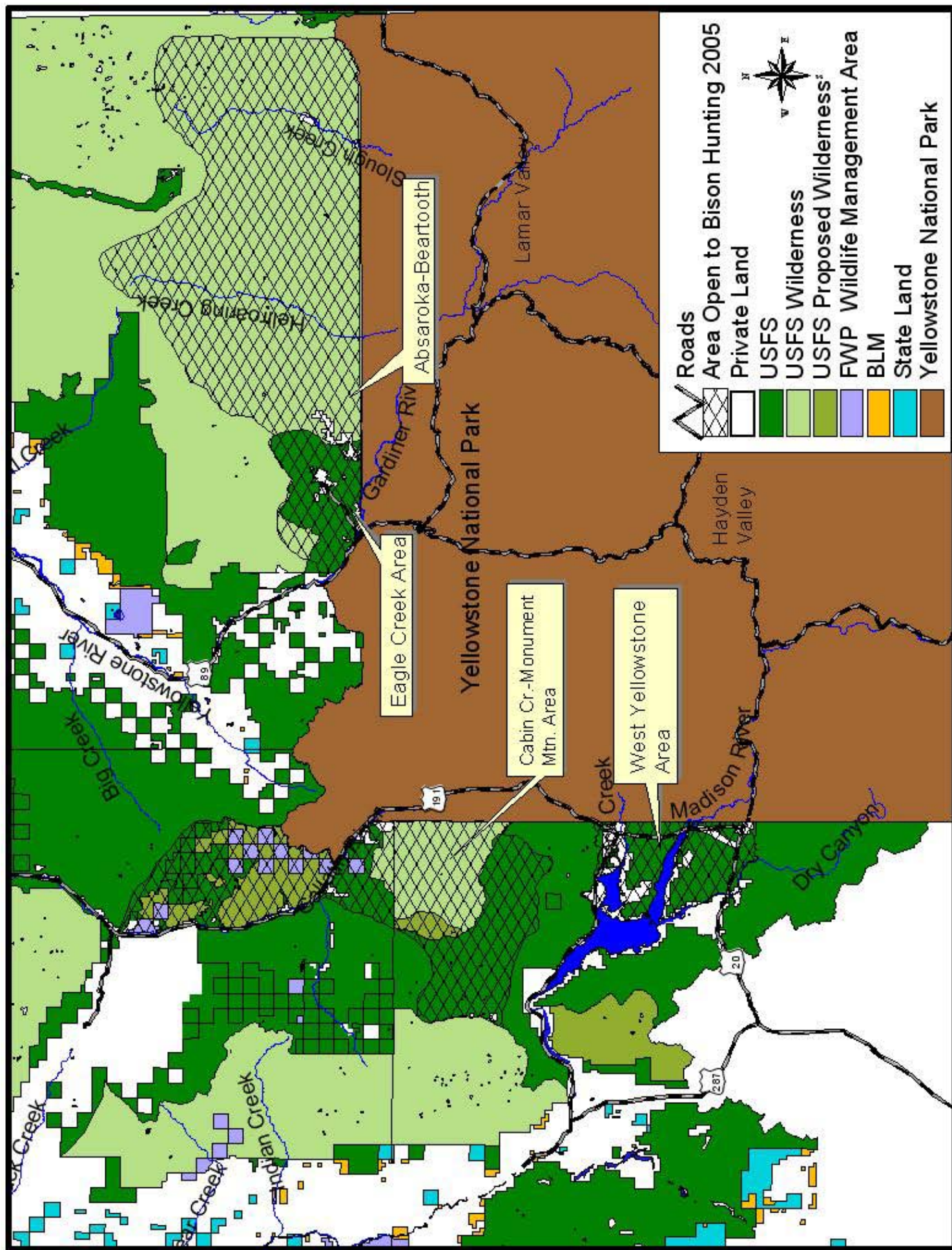
Beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 191 and the road leading to the trailhead for U.S.F.S. Trail 68 located between the mouth of Taylor Fork and Sage Creek, then southwesterly up the Taylor Fork/Sage Creek divide and the Taylor Fork/Beaver and Cabin Creeks divide to the west boundary of the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, to include those portions of said area lying south of the above description and including all of the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The area open to hunting also includes the portion of the Gallatin drainage lying east of the Gallatin River and from Levinsky Ridge south to Yellowstone National Park.

### **West Yellowstone Area –**

Beginning at the intersection of Grayling Creek and the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then south along the Park boundary to its intersection with the south section line of Section 34, T13S, R5E (1/4 mile south of West Yellowstone), then west along said section line to its intersection with USFS Road 1700 (in the southwest corner of said section), then north and west along said road to its intersection with the South Fork of the Madison River, then northwesterly along the east bank of the South Fork of the Madison River to its confluence with Hebgen Lake, then northwest along a straight line across said Lake to the tip of Edwards Peninsula, then northerly along the west shore of the Horse Butte Peninsula to The Narrows, then northwest along a straight line across The Narrows to the Lakeview Resort, then northeasterly along the private land/USFS boundary to Red Canyon Creek, then north up Red Canyon Creek to the mouth of Coal Canyon Creek, then up Coal Canyon Creek to the top of Graycroft Ridge, then northeasterly to Johnson Creek outlet at Johnson Lake, then southeast down Johnson Creek to its intersection with Little Teepee Creek Trail (#90), then south along said trail to its intersection with the Whits Lake Road, then northeasterly along said road to the Whits Lake trailhead, then southeasterly down the Whits Lake outlet stream to its confluence with Grayling Creek, then easterly up Grayling Creek to its intersection with the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, the point of beginning.

**Note:** No hunting within the city limits of West Yellowstone and no hunting within the fenced boundary of the West Yellowstone airport.





## Contacts

### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, PO Box 200701,  
Helena, MT 59620-0701 ..... **406-444-2535**

Hunter Education ..... **406-444-3188**  
Wildlife Division ..... **406-444-2612**  
Enforcement Division ..... **406-444-2452**  
Parks Division (Montana State Parks) ..... **406-444-3750**  
Deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep,  
mountain goat, and all special drawings ..... **406-444-2950**  
Resident and nonresident licensing for  
fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds,  
black bear, and mountain lion ..... **406-444-2535**  
Nonresident mailing list for deer and  
elk big game combination licenses  
and regulations ..... **406-444-2950**  
Telephone Device for the Deaf ..... **406-444-1200**

### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters

#### REGION 1

490 N Meridian Rd  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501

#### REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Rd  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 542-5500

#### REGION 3

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496  
(406) 994-4042

#### HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)

930 Custer Ave W  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 495-3260

#### BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)

1820 Meadowlark Ln  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 494-1953

#### REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs Rd  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 454-5840



#### LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)

215 W Aztec Dr  
PO Box 938  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
(406) 538-4658

#### REGION 5

2300 Lake Elmo Dr  
Billings, MT 59105  
(406) 247-2940

#### REGION 6

Route 1 – 4210  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
(406) 228-3700

#### HAVRE Area Res Office (HVARO)

2165 Hwy 2 East  
Havre, MT 59501  
(406) 265-6177

#### REGION 7

Industrial Site West  
PO Box 1630  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 234-0900

## 2005 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for hunting in Montana. Authorized hunting hours for the taking of bison begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. **(Do not utilize from other sources).**



### ZONE 2

**INCLUDES:** Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Choteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

Day	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.		Feb.	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:48	8:07	7:27	7:07	7:10	5:12	7:52	4:42	8:12	4:51	7:52	5:32
2	6:50	8:05	7:28	7:05	7:12	5:11	7:53	4:42	8:12	4:52	7:51	5:34
3	6:51	8:03	7:30	7:03	7:13	5:10	7:54	4:42	8:12	4:53	7:49	5:35
4	6:52	8:01	7:31	7:02	7:15	5:08	7:55	4:41	8:12	4:54	7:48	5:37
5	6:54	7:59	7:32	7:00	7:16	5:07	7:57	4:41	8:12	4:55	7:47	5:38
6	6:55	7:57	7:34	6:58	7:18	5:05	7:58	4:41	8:12	4:57	7:45	5:40
7	6:56	7:55	7:35	6:56	7:19	5:04	7:59	4:41	8:12	4:58	7:44	5:41
8	6:57	7:53	7:36	6:54	7:21	5:03	8:00	4:41	8:11	4:59	7:43	5:43
9	6:59	7:51	7:38	6:52	7:22	5:01	8:01	4:41	8:11	5:00	7:41	5:44
10	7:00	7:49	7:39	6:50	7:23	5:00	8:02	4:41	8:11	5:01	7:40	5:46
11	7:01	7:47	7:41	6:48	7:25	4:59	8:02	4:41	8:10	5:02	7:38	5:47
12	7:02	7:45	7:42	6:46	7:26	4:58	8:03	4:41	8:10	5:04	7:37	5:49
13	7:04	7:43	7:43	6:45	7:28	4:57	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:05	7:35	5:50
14	7:05	7:41	7:45	6:43	7:29	4:55	8:05	4:41	8:09	5:06	7:33	5:52
15	7:06	7:39	7:46	6:41	7:31	4:54	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:08	7:32	5:53
16	7:08	7:37	7:47	6:39	7:32	4:53	8:06	4:41	8:07	5:09	7:30	5:55
17	7:09	7:35	7:49	6:37	7:34	4:52	8:07	4:42	8:07	5:10	7:29	5:56
18	7:10	7:33	7:50	6:35	7:35	4:51	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:12	7:27	5:58
19	7:11	7:31	7:52	6:34	7:36	4:50	8:08	4:42	8:05	5:13	7:25	5:59
20	7:13	7:29	7:53	6:32	7:38	4:50	8:09	4:43	8:04	5:14	7:23	6:01
21	7:14	7:27	7:55	6:30	7:39	4:49	8:10	4:43	8:04	5:16	7:22	6:02
22	7:15	7:25	7:56	6:28	7:40	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:03	5:17	7:20	6:04
23	7:17	7:23	7:57	6:27	7:42	4:47	8:10	4:44	8:02	5:19	7:18	6:05
24	7:18	7:21	7:59	6:25	7:43	4:46	8:11	4:45	8:01	5:20	7:17	6:07
25	7:19	7:19	8:00	6:23	7:44	4:46	8:11	4:46	8:00	5:22	7:15	6:08
26	7:20	7:17	8:02	6:22	7:46	4:45	8:11	4:46	7:59	5:23	7:13	6:10
27	7:22	7:15	8:03	6:20	7:47	4:44	8:12	4:47	7:58	5:25	7:11	6:11
28	7:23	7:13	8:05	6:19	7:48	4:44	8:12	4:48	7:57	5:26	7:09	6:13
29	7:24	7:11	8:06	6:17	7:50	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:56	5:28		
30	7:26	7:09	7:07	5:15	7:51	4:43	8:12	4:50	7:54	5:29		
31			7:09	5:14			8:12	4:51	7:53	5:31		

## Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

### Montana State Agencies

Agriculture  
**406-444-3144**  
Guides & Outfitters  
**406-841-2373**  
Livestock  
**406-444-7323**  
State Lands  
**406-444-2074**  
Tourism  
**406-841-2795**

### Federal Agencies

US Department of  
Interior  
**202-208-3100**  
US Fish & Wildlife  
Service  
**406-449-5225**

### Land Maps

Bureau of Land Management  
**406-896-5000**  
Topographical (USGS)  
**303-202-4700**

### Tribal Lands

Blackfeet Reservation  
**406-338-7276**  
Crow Reservation  
**406-638-2601**  
Flathead Reservation  
**406-675-2700**  
Fort Belknap  
**406-353-2205**  
Fort Peck Reservation  
**406-768-5305**  
Northern Cheyenne Reservation  
**406-477-8844**  
Rocky Boy Reservation  
**406-395-4207**



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Wildlife & Parks**  
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